## OCC trustees challenge college tradition

lege trustees would break with eight centuries of tradition if they insist on interviewing the top three candidates for jobs below the level of cherceller.

dates for jobs below the level of chancellor.

"I feel very uncomfortable being given one name," said trustee Douglas Wakefield of Southfield, so voted against the promotion of professor Geraid H. Fays to academic "The thought struck nor that maybe we should have" interviewed toy-be we should have "interviewed toy-be and dates for 22 densiblys, campus presidents and vice chancellors, wakefield said. In recent years the board has interviewed just finalists or chilef executive.

"For 10 years," said Earl Anderson, a ploner OCC trustee from Madison Helphts, "this board interviewed everybody who was hired by this college."

CAMPUS PRESIDENT Daniel aksen set up a committee of de-artmental chairmen that winnowed partmental chairmen that winnowed 11 applicants to two, Jaksen made the final selection after talks with Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson and presented it to the board Dec. 18. It was a procedure that philoso-



Richard

pher Peter Abelard, scientist Isaac Newton and astronomer Nicholas Copernicus would have been famil-lar with.

In ancient times, individual teachers — like Socrates — gave private courses Independently. That system needed organization, both to assure the quality of instruction and to develop a curriculum.

In medieval times, groups of scholars formed "colleges" — the word has the same rost as "collegues" — in Bologna, Parls, Oxford. They practiced self-governance through the principle of collegality. Another example is the College of Cardinals, which elects the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

BY THE 12TH century, church and civil authorities granted col-leges charters, although these recog-nized centuries-old practices rather than established new institutions. So the tradition of colleges, as we know them, is probably 1,000 years old

old.

Now, the principle of collegiality works well when colleges have no buildings, the masters taught in their own rooms or rented halls, and the

own rooms or reaced man, and the poor students were given rooms by charities. But along came the need for build-ings, laboratories, libraries, printed books and equipment. Colleges soon needed an outside source of money either a church or a governmen
 and an outside board to oversee
the use of that money.

AMONG GOVERNANCE systems, colleges seem to be the oldest -- older than parllaments, Congress, state legislatures, county boards, township boards, school boards -- older perhaps than even city councils.

Community colleges, however, are among our youngest institutions. In Michael County Builde was had a

Community colleges, nowever, are among our youngest institutions. In Michigan, Grand Rapids has had a two-year college since 1914. The state has helped support community colleges since 1947.

In the early 1960s, the state decreed that every loch of I and be in a community college district. OCC, Macomb and Schoolcraft were born

A temporary telephone hotline has been established for Michigan par-ents interested in information about the state's new college-guaranteed tuttlen plan.

tuition pian.
Operators will answer questions about the Michigan Education Trust program at 517-378-8435.
"We have been swamped with requests for information about the guaranteed tuition pian, and we had to dedicate personnel to answer all the questions," said State Treasurer Robert Bowman.

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gests. "When there are reasons pre-viously unidentified by the presi-dent for not employing a proposed employee," the president should ac-cept the board's viewpoint and seek another candidate.

in that movement.

Those early boards — with ploneers like Dr. Fred Matthews of Southwestern, Harold Fischer of Schoolicraft and Earl Anderson of OCC — had to organize their schools from the top down. There were no "colleagues" to interview candidates for middle-management posits. The colleagues to interview candidates for middle-management posits. The colleagues are in place.

A HANDBOM called "Trustee-ship" has been produced by attorney deerge E. Potter, who in 1982 was elected to Jackson Community Colleagues are the place.

A HANDBOM called "Trustee-ship" has been produced by attorney deerge E. Potter, who in 1982 was elected to Jackson Community Colleagues from the control of the produce of the colleagues are repossibilities of the place to the produced that the proposibilities are selecting and evaluating the chief executive, adopting a budget, buying and maintaining facilities, defining the mission of the colleage, carrying its message to the public . . . but nothing about selecting deans and other middle administrators.

Potter uses no historical material, but does quote policies and procedures of successful colleges, AACT's job description of a board says its should "see to it that middle management, instructors and students are properly evaluated" — nothing

should "see to it that middle man-agement, instructors and students are properly evaluated" — nothing about the board interviewing and choosing between candidates, as Wakefleid proposes. A president can't expect blind ac-quiesence from a board, Potter sug-

Treasury staff is assuring callers that everyone who wants to particle plate in the guaranteed tuition plan will have an equal chance to take part. Names may have to be randomly drawn if the demand exceeds the program's capacity during the program's introductory years.

Written inquiries about the guar-anteed tultion plan can be sent to; Michigan Education Trust, Michigan Department of Treasury, P.O. Box 15128, Lansing, Mich. 48901.

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In short, the lesson of history seems to be that one uses the principle of collegiality unless the collegues make a mistake, as mortals sometimes do, but doesn't throw out a 1,000-year-old principle.

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